



**Our mission is for all learning disabled people in Manchester to have control over their lives, make their own choices and be confident self-advocates.**

**We will work with other groups to help us reach our goal.**

**We will be brave and strong in how we support people.**

**We will be positive and move forward together.**

# **Manchester People First's Annual Report for 2014**





## **The year ahead**

**Welcome to our Annual Report, which tells you what Manchester People First did from April 2013 to March 2014.**

At this year's Annual General Meeting we will be electing a new committee who will run Manchester People First for the next year. They will have to find more funding to keep us running and think about what activities we will do. We will help them with committee training.

## **Our Committee**

Last October, at our Annual General Meeting we elected: Chair: Paul Brannick, Vice Chair: Stephen Burden, Treasurer: Shirley Ryder, Committee Members: Joseph Rooney, Ronnie Hailwood, Paul Hughes, Thomas Fallow, and George. Unfortunately Thomas and George were not able to attend any meetings. Paul swapped jobs with Stephen, so Stephen became Chair and Paul became Vice Chair.

## **Thank you**

Edward Kane, who was a founder member of People First and long serving member of our committee stood down last year. We thank him once again for all his work over the last 22 years.

The committee has had to make hard choices about what we could do to carry on doing our work with less money.

Thanks to the consultant Sarah Forster who gave us advice.



## **Staff changes and project closures**

Nagina Dar joined us as a Service Audit Assistant Co-worker; she has since left to start a nurse training course.

Unfortunately because of lack of funding we had to close our Club 3 group for young people and our Lounge at 3 social group for older people. This meant we had to say goodbye to staff members Nora Gardner, April Walkin, Delroy Sterling and John Bee. We thank them for their hard work and wish them well in the future.

We managed to keep our South Office running for a year after its funding ran out, but unfortunately it had to close this year and we made admin worker Jodie Degan redundant.

Project Worker Barry Hills was redeployed to work with the Service Audit Team and as a Project Worker at our Cheetham Hill office.

## **Conferences**

We went to conferences, meetings and events to learn more about issues that affect our members and make sure the views of adults with a learning disability are listened to.

Stephen Burden represented us at the North West Self Advocates Conference in Blackpool. We went to an event about abuse at Manchester Town Hall called 'Beyond Winterbourne'.

And we have continued to host the Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board's meetings which take place 6 times a year.





## **Social activities**

It was not all hard work. Once again we held a People First's Got Talent contest, which this year was won by a group effort from OPAL.

We enjoyed our annual Barbecue and went back to St. Kent's in Fallowfield for our big Christmas party.

## **Service Audit Team**

Our team has carried on visiting people in their own homes to ask them what they think of the services they are getting. We were also asked to do some work about safeguarding to see how well services are dealing with the problems of abuse.

The team also carried on giving a monthly training session about disability to police officers at their training college and a couple of sessions for beat officers at Central Park.

## **Newsletter**

We have done far too much to tell you about in our annual report, so to keep up to date read our newsletter 'Speak Up'. We send this out 4 times a year to 500 people including members and people who work professionally with adults with learning disabilities.

We know many members use social media, so please 'Like' us on FaceBook, follow us on Twitter and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

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